Distinguishing Legitimate Hardware Upgrades From Unauthorized Installations of Software on Additional Computers

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A client transmits requests to access features of a software program to a server. The requests include a hardware profile of the computer on which the user is attempting to run the software. The server stores the hardware profile of the computer on which the user is authorized to run the software program. Responsive to receiving a request, the server determines whether the user is licensed to run the software, by determining whether the received hardware profile is acceptably similar to the stored hardware profile, and/or whether a sufficient period of time has passed since a previous hardware update.